



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

May 5, 2010
7:30 p.m.
City Hall, Room 1101

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Jayme Blakesley, Mayor William D. Euille, Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Krupicka, Sean Kumar, Jennifer Mitchell

Staff Present: Karen Callahan, T&ES, Yon Lambert, T&ES, Abi Lerner, T&ES, Al Himes, DASH, Jim Maslanka, T&ES, Gabe Ortiz, T&ES

A quorum being present, the Transportation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Minutes

Chairman Kumar requested comments on the April 7, 2010 minutes. Commissioner Fossum suggested minor revisions and there being no substantial corrections to the April minutes, a motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Monthly Funding Update

Mr. Maslanka reviewed the process by which the City must obligate money for TIGER Grants by September 2011. TIGER grants will tackle the kind of major transportation projects that have been difficult to build under other funding programs. The program received \$1.5 billion nationally for improvements to roads, bridges, rail, ports, transit and intermodal facilities.

3. Commercial Real Estate Tax

Mr. Lambert reviewed a memo provided to the Commission on the Commercial Real Estate Tax which included a draft plan for consideration of projects. The tax was not included in the FY2011 budget. The Commission discussed appointment of a subcommittee to coordinate an outreach plan and identify projects for consideration. The subcommittee will include Commissioners Fossum and Mitchell.

The Commission clarified that projects under consideration for potential funding by a Commercial Real Estate Tax may originate in the Long Range Plan although other projects will be considered. The Subcommittee will recommend to the Commission a public process to consider projects for recommendation to City Council for inclusion in a future CIP.

Commissioner Mitchell requested consideration of separate criteria for projects that would focus on the economic benefits. Commissioners expressed a desire to perform community outreach to key stakeholders and potentially affected interests prior to presenting a list to the

Transportation Commission. Commissioners also requested that staff review minutes of strategic planning meetings to identify potential projects of interest.

4. Staff Updates

Old Town Parking Study – Mr. Lambert reported on a work session with City Council on April 13 regarding the parking study. Council did not take formal action but directed staff to appoint a work group which would hold topic-oriented meetings between June and September to focus on issues such as meter rates, extending hours of meter, adding meters, wayfinding and consideration of an “All may park, All must pay” policy. In the FY2011 budget, City Council raised meter rates citywide, provided funding for parking wayfinding signs and provided funding for installation of six multi-space meters in the 100 and 200 blocks of King Street.

TDM Long Range Plan – Mr. Ortiz reported on the development of the Transportation Demand Management’s long range plan. The vendor selected to assist with the plan, Cambridge Systematics, has begun research on the existing conditions section of the plan as well as formulating goals and strategies. Cambridge Systematics engaged the Federation of Civic Associations at their monthly meeting on feedback of a web based survey to residents and conducted a focus group. Cambridge also began a survey to be administered to employers. Mr. Ortiz met with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce to partner with them on the TDM’s long range plan. The Chamber of Commerce agreed to assist with distributing the employer survey to their 700+ members.

Beauregard Corridor/BRAC Updates - Mr. Lerner reported that VDOT wants the City to fund additional alternative studies for BRAC. The City agreed to fund half of a study for additional alternatives and recommended that VDOT continue to explore alternative A-1 and eliminate Alternative D. VDOT has decided to remove both Alternatives A-1 and D from the table but would consider an Alternative F and G, which will include access from the northbound HOV lanes to the Seminary Road interchange.

Future Beauregard Corridor community workshop meeting will seek additional input from the community. Key elements include a need for more inter-connected roadways with alternative routes and the need for other modes of transportation.

5. Commission Updates

Commissioner Blakesley inquired about the upcoming Bike-to-Work Day event. Mr. Lambert informed the Commissioners that Bike-to-Work Day will be Friday, May 21. Participants have to go online to the Washington Area Bicycle Association’s webpage to pre-register for the Market Square pit stop to be eligible for a free t-shirt and prize raffles.

Commissioner Fossum spoke about the narrated bus tour of 70 affordable housing properties in the City she experienced on May 1.

Chair Sean Kumar reminded all of his impending resignation from the Transportation Commission. He thanked everyone for the great teamwork and cumulative knowledge of the issues which made his tenure on the Commission a tremendous experience. Commissioner Blakesley thanked Chair Sean Kumar for all of his efforts and contributions towards making the Transportation Commission successful since its inauguration.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm was made and seconded.